Claims

1. A method of creating a resource of a desired type ready for use in a resource
   management system having a plurality of templates each defining a resource
   category and a plurality of catalogs each specifying a resource type, each catalog
   5   in the plurality of catalogs being associated with one of the plurality of templates,
        each template and each catalog having associated primary validations,
        relationship constraints and secondary validations, the method comprising steps
        for:
        selecting a catalog, based on the desired type, from the plurality of catalogs;
   10   identifying a template from the plurality of templates that is associated with the
        catalog;
        creating an initial instance of the resource;
        establishing a plurality of attributes associated with the resource based on
        definitions specified by the catalog and by the template, and validating the
   15   attributes by applying primary validations associated with the catalog and with the
        template;
        establishing relationships with the resource by applying relationship constraints
        associated with the template and with the catalog; and
        applying secondary validations associated with the catalog and with the template
   20   to the attributes associated with the resource.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource is a proxy in the resource
   management system for a physical or conceptual resource outside of the resource
   management system.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the primary validations make reference to an
   25   attribute within the plurality of attributes to be validated.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the secondary validations make reference to an
   attribute within the plurality of attributes to be validated and to another attribute
   within the plurality of attributes.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the secondary validations can be providing by
   30   business rules.

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6. A data structure used in creating a resource of a desired resource type within a resource management application according to the method of claim 1, comprising data elements representing:

a template defining a resource category;

5   a catalog, associated with the template, specifying a resource type;

an attribute master set;

a template subset of attributes, selected from the attribute master set, and attribute primary validations associated with the template;

a catalog subset of attributes, selected from the template subset of attributes, and

10   primary attribute validations associated with the catalog;

relationship constraints associated with the template;

relationship constraints associated with the catalog;

secondary validations associated with the template; and

secondary validations associated with the catalog.

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7. A computer program product for use in creating a resource of a desired type ready for use in a resource management system having a plurality of templates each defining a resource category and a plurality of catalogs each specifying a resource type, each catalog in the plurality of catalogs being associated with one of the plurality of templates, each template and each catalog having associated primary validations, relationship constraints and secondary validations, the computer program product comprising computer executable program code devices for:

a) selecting a catalog, based on the desired type, from the plurality of catalogs;

b) identifying a template from the plurality of templates that is associated with the catalog;

c) creating an initial instance of the resource;

d) establishing a plurality of attributes associated with the resource based on definitions specified by the catalog and by the template, and validating the attributes by applying primary validations associated with the catalog and with the template;

e) establishing relationships with the resource by applying relationship constraints associated with the template and with the catalog; and

f) applying secondary validations associated with the catalog and with the template to the attributes associated with the resource.

8. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the resource is a proxy in the resource management system for a physical or conceptual resource outside of the resource management system.

9. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the primary validations make reference to an attribute within the plurality of attributes to be validated.

10. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the secondary validations make reference to an attribute within the plurality of attributes to be validated and to another attribute within the plurality of attributes.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the secondary validations can be providing by business rules.